

Calif. Students Protest Proposed Cuts, Fee Hikes

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SAN FRANCISCO (BCN) □ Students and faculty members are holding rallies at California State University campuses in the Bay Area and statewide Wednesday to protest proposed state budget cuts that would prevent 10,000 students from being admitted to the system next year.

In a separate action, Lt. Gov. John Garamendi attended a rally outside the University of California Board of Regents meeting in San Francisco to speak out against proposed tuition hikes in the UC system.

Garamendi said that under the proposed 2009-10 UC budget, tuition would increase by 9.5 percent. The lieutenant governor serves as both a UC regent and a trustee for the separate California State University system.

He has said that if the UC system were to keep raising tuition it would turn into the equivalent of a private school. UC regents were expected to vote on the proposed budget late Wednesday.

At a rally at the meeting of California State trustees in Long Beach on Tuesday, Garamendi said cutting the number of students admitted to CSU campuses would reduce hurt the state's future workforce.

The California Faculty Association, the Alliance for CSU Students and the State Employees Trade Council joined Garamendi at the rally.

In the Bay Area, rallies were taking place at Cal State-East Bay in Hayward, San Francisco

State University and San Jose State University.

Cal State Chancellor Charles Reed has said that the state university system can't admit additional students without adequate resources.